

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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R 261015Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5312

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USUN NEW YORK 5#&

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2656

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NAM,SL,EG

SUBJECT: NAC: VIEWS OF EGYPTAIN DCM

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE (NAC) PREPARTIONS AND ISSUES WITH NEWLY-ARRIVED DCM OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY, MOHAB MOKBEL, JULY 23, MOKBEL'S COMMENTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST BECAUSE HE HAD JUST FINISHED A TOUR IN EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HANDLING NON-ALIGNED AFFAIRS.HIS ASSIGNMENT HERE IS, HE REPORTS, CONSIDERED A FOLLOW-ON.

2. PUERTO RICOAT MOKBEL SKIRTED TAKING POSITION ON SUB-STANTIVE ISSUES EXCEPT TWO: PUERTO RICO AND KOREA. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S COMMENT THAT ANYTPUBLIC STATEMENT BY NAM ON PUERTO RICO COULD BE TAKEN BY USG AS INTER-FERENCE IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS, MAKBEL EXPRESSED REGRET.

HE SAID PR HAD BEEN ON NAM AGENDA SINCE THE 1960'S, AS FAR AS HE RECALLED. IT COULD NOT SIMPLY BE DROPPED: A NEW CONSENSUS TO THAT EFFECT

WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE AT THE NAC.

HE FELT THE LANGUAGE AT ALGIERS WAS MUCH IMPROVED FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE US POSITION, HOWEVER. HE SAID ASSURINGLY THAT THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE NAC WOULD
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BE "ACCEPTABLE" TO THE U.S., "AS LONG AS IT WAS CONSIDERED

WITH SME FLEXIBILITY." (COMMENT: MOKBEL'S POSITION THAT NAM DID NOT WISH TO OFFEND US BUT WAS CONSTRAINED TO SAY SOMETHING BECAUSE OF PAST HISTORY ECHOED EARLIER COMMENTS OF INDIAN OFFICIAL VERMA TO NEW DELHI POLCOUNSELOR JULY 15--NEW DELHI 10483.)

3. KOREA-MOKBEL LISTENED WITH SEEMING INTEREST TO EMBOFF'S COMMENTS AND ASKED FOR COPIES OF SOVIET AND CHINESE TREATIES, OF WHICH HE INDICATED HE WAS NOT AWARE. HE CONCLUDED THAT SOLUTION TO KOREAN QUESTION HAD TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. (CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE BEFORE MATERIAL ON SECRETARY'S JULY 22 SPEECH AVAILABLE. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING IT DIRECTLY WITH MOKBEL LATER.)

4. US/NON-ALIGNED RELATIONS: TO EMBOFF'S COMMENT XP

NAM HAD SEEMED AT TIMES TO BE "NON-ALIGNED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES," MOKBEL REFERRED TO DISTINCTION-WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO CUBANS-BETWEEN "THE ALIGNED WHO WERE FRIENDS OF THE NON-ALIGNED" AND "THE ALIGNED WHO WERE NOT." HE PERSONALLY EXPLAINED TREND AS RESULT OF COLONIAL EXPERIENCE. EMBOFF REJECTED CONTENTION THAT US DID NOT SEEK FRIENDLY AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE

NON-ALIGNED AND CALLED ATTENTION TO MAJOR ISSUE BEFORE NAC WHERE SOVIET AND NON-ALIGNED INTERESTS CONFLICTED: SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. MOKBEL REPLIED, "SOME SAY THE SOVIETS WOULD LEAVE IF THE AMERICANS GAVE UP DIEGO GARCIA." AT EMBOFF'S EXPRESSION OF DISBELIEF, MOKBEL SMILED AND CONCLUDED, "I'M JUST REPEATING WHAT SOME SAY."

5. EGYPTIAN DELEGATION: MOKBEL SAID THE OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN DELEGATION WOULD NUMBER EIGHTY. WHEN SADAT WAS IN THE COUNTRY, THE SECURITY FORCE, PLANE CREWS, ETC. WOULD TAKE THE TOTAL OVER 100.
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